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DOE Federal Coordinator

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Environmental Protection

Agency

Mike Hardin

Fish and Wildlife Resources

Stephanie Brock

Radiation Health Branch

**Support Services**

EHI Consultants, Inc.

111 Memorial Drive

Paducah, KY 42001

Phone 270.554.3004

Fax 270.554.3248

[www.pgdpab.org](http://www.pgdpab.org)

[info@pgdpab.org](mailto:info@pgdpab.org)

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**SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation for Department of Energy Paducah Site Office**

**BACKGROUND**

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) would like to extend sincere appreciation and thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy Paducah Site office (DOE) for its efforts in coordinating and hosting the Regional Science Bowl. DOE and its employees, in partnership with United States Enrichment Corporation, Swift and Staley Mechanical Contractors, LATA Kentucky and other local organizations, hosted its third Regional Science Bowl in February, 2012, at West Kentucky Community & Technical College. High school teams competed Feb. 10, and middle school teams will compete Feb. 24. Winning high school and middle school teams will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Science Bowl April 26-30.

The National Science Bowl is America's largest and most prestigious science competition for middle and high school students. More than 21,600 students from 42 states plus Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; and the U.S. Virgin Islands have competed in regional competitions. It is the only educational event and academic competition that is sponsored by a federal agency. This year's competition drew high school teams from Paducah Tilghman, Lone Oak, Reidland, St. Mary, Marshall County, Hopkinsville, Crittenden County, Gatton Academy, West Kentucky Homeschool, and Madisonville-North Hopkins. Lone Oak High School, Paducah, KY, won the regional high school competition.

The CAB has previously recommended to DOE that it continue to expand its public outreach, including its involvement with local schools. The CAB commends DOE and its partners for allocating resources to make the event a success. In addition, the CAB would like to recognize the individual employees of said companies that gave their personal time to serve the local schools. Without a doubt, all of Western Kentucky schools benefit from your service to the community.

RALPH YOUNG, Chair